to receive your cooperation in that effort.

With these words, I once again welcome the new Members, who have joined us and wish them all success in their parliamentary career.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Changes in text books

*1. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale changes made by the NCERT in the various text books prescribed for the school students;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to correct these changes, if warranted, so as to ensure the factual accuracy and objectivity of such books?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Subsequent to the release of The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) in November 2000, the syllabi and textbooks for all the subjects and all the classes were revised by NCERT and new textbooks were printed.

The NCFSE is due for a review. This review will address all the issues that have been raised regarding the books on all subjects. However, reports of the communalization and inadequacies of history textbooks of the NCERT have engaged public and academic attention for some time. Therefore, it has considered necessary to have a quick review of the history textbooks and the history portion of the social science textbooks in lower classes done by a panel of eminent historians of impeccable credentials who would suggest what needs to be done. Accordingly, a panel consisting of Prof. S. Setter, Prof. J.S. Grewal and Prof. Barum De has been constituted. Government will take appropriate decisions based on the report of the panel.